Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Raman Pillai, Gopala Pillai and the Mover, to report within two months.

Seconded by Mr. Rengaswami Aiyangar.

Carried.

THE LAND IMPROVEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL LOANS BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar presented the report of the Select Committee on the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Bill, and moved that the report and the Bill be taken up for consideration at once.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

SECTION 4.

Mr. Govinda Menon moved that the words "the Director of Agriculture and by" be inserted between the words "loans may be granted by" and "such" in line 1, and that the words "other officers" be substituted for the word "officer" in line 2.

Seconded by Mr. Parameswaran Pillai.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in opposing the motion, said :—

"I do not think it necessary to accept the amendment. In the first place, Section 4 says that loans may be granted by such officer as may be empowered by the Government for the purpose. Under the existing Regulation, Tahsildars and Peishkars are specially empowered to recommend or sanction up to a certain limit loans for the improvement of lands. The main principle kept in view in the Bill is that the officers who are to grant loans need not be specified, and that the officers, the limits up to which they can grant loans, and the procedure connected with them—all these may be specified by the rules that may be framed by Government in this behalf. Seeing that no specific officer is mentioned in Section 3, I submit that no officer need be mentioned in this Section also. There may be two different sets of officers under the two Sections. The procedure may be different. So also, the instalments and the mode of recovery of the loans. The Government may frame different sets of rules for these two Sections. It may be that the Director of Agriculture and his subordinates may be entrusted with the power of granting loans under this Section. But I do not think it necessary to name particularly any officer as being competent to grant loans. The matter may be safely left to the discretion of the Government. I therefore beg to oppose the amendment."

Mr. Krishna Aiyengar:—

"I would just add a few words to the observations made by Mr. Subba Aiyar. The loans contemplated under this Regulation generally fall under two heads—loans under Section 3 which are meant for substantial permanent improvements that would add to the letting value of the property, and the loans with which we are now dealing, *i. e.*, those contemplated under Section 4 which are intended to afford temporary relief in times of distress in the matter of purchase of seed, cattle, manure, agricultural implements and other purposes not specified in Section 3. Now, it is a serious question whether, when a man stands in need of, say, a loan of ten rupees in South Travancore, in Tovala Taluk, for purchasing seed, and the Director of Agriculture may be somewhere at Parur, it would be to the greater convenience of the ryot in South Travancore to send his application to the Director who may be circuiting in North Travancore. Would it not be more convenient if it is left to the local Tahsildars who will have sufficient knowledge of ample details essential in themselves ? It is much to the advantage of the agriculturist that no special officer is mentioned in the Section. I think that the Government may be trusted in the appointment of such officers. I have therefore to oppose the amendment."

Mr. Govinda Menon :—

"I do not say that Government should not empower other officers, but the Director of Agriculture being the head of a Department which is connected with agriculture, I think it is fit and proper that he should be entrusted with the power of granting loans under this Section. If the Government are prepared to assure that they will entrust him with the power of granting loans under this Section, I do not wish to press the amendment."

President :—

"No assurance of the kind could be given. In fact, the whole Bill is intended for the benefit of the agricultural population, and so, every facility will be given to them for getting loans for the purposes indicated in the Bill. The Government may authorise as many officers as may be necessary. It is not possible to give any assurance with reference to the authorisation of particular officers."

Mr. Govinda Menon :—

"Then, I cannot withdraw the amendment."

Mr. Govinda Menon's motion was put to the vote and lost.

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SECTION 5.

Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai moved that the following be inserted in Section 5:—

"All applications for loans with all the informations required by this Regulation and the rules made thereunder shall be submitted to the officer empowered to grant such loans"; and he said :—

"Sir,

The chief complaint against the existing Regulation is that the provisions contained in it are not adequate to effect the prompt disposal of applications for loans. The Mover himself has admitted that the procedure now adopted is very dilatory and unworkable. So, our present attempt should be, I think, to replace it by one that will be more workable. In the Bill, I was not able to find any provision that would bring about the desired effect. At present it is the Tahsildar who receives all applications for loans, though he has no power to grant any loans. After receiving the application, he proceeds very leisurely to conduct his enquiries and after closing his enquiries he either rejects it finally or submits a recommendation to the higher authority for the grant of the loan applied for. It is only then that the authority competent to grant the loan gets information regarding the application. During the enquiry, the Tahsildar works with no outside pressure or control. That is the chief cause of the delay in the disposal of such applications. The Peishkar comes to know of this only when the order rejecting the application is appealed against or when a recommendation is made for the grant of loans. I think that the power of receiving applications for loans, and the power of granting or rejecting them should all be left in one and the same officer. It may be said that these are details that can be brought under the rules. But my amendment involves a principle and should find a place in the Bill itself. I do not propose to name the officers or to fix the amount that each officer should be allowed to grant. It is very unlikely that any officer below the rank of the Director of Agriculture will be entrusted with the power of granting the loans under the Regulation. Even granting that officers of inferior status will be empowered to grant the loans, my contention is that, whatever be the rank of the officer, the same officer should receive and dispose of the applications for loans. In that case, orders for enquiry will originate from the officer who receives the application and his subordinates will surely conduct the enquiry very promptly, and this will have the effect of the applications being disposed of promptly. For these reasons I think that the Clause which I have proposed should be inserted in the Bill itself."

The motion fell through as it was not seconded.

SECTION 7.

Mr. Krishna Aiyangar moved that the words "except as regards the loans referred to in Section 4" be inserted at the beginning of Clause (*c*) of sub-section (1).

Seconded by Mr. Gopala Pillai.

Mr. Subba Aiyar accepted the amendment, and it was carried.

SECTION 9.

Mr. Govinda Menon moved that the words "a co-operative credit society with unlimited liability or to any other recognised body or association of persons" be substituted for the words "the members of a village community" in line 1.

The motion fell through as it was not seconded.

SECTION 11.

Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the whole Section be deleted.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

After some discussion, the motion was carried by a majority.

The consideration of the Bill being over, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the Bill be read again on a future day of which notice should be given.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

THE SURVEY AND BOUNDARIES BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar presented the report of the Select Committee on the Survey and Boundaries Bill, and moved that the report and the Bill be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

SECTION 3.

Mr. Krishna Aiyangar moved that the words "and includes" be inserted between the words "means" and "any person" in line 1 of Clause (iv).

Mr. Subba Aiyar accepted the amendment, and it was carried.

SECTION 6.

Mr. Govinda Menon, in moving that Clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of sub-section (3) be deleted, said :—

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